



1997

Government Relations Committee Annual Report, 1997-1998

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Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries
Government Relations Committee
Annual Report, 1997-1998

The 1997-98 Government Relations Committee consists of Melanie Dunshee (Chair), Brian Baker, Kelly Browne, Timothy Coggins, Rebekah Maxwell, and Brandon Quarles. The Committee agreed to continue the monitoring and review of state legislative, judicial and administrative developments in states within the Southeastern chapter. We chose a small number of projects to focus on during the year:

1. Assign states to committee members to monitor developments.
2. Contact general state library organizations to team up with government relations or legislative monitoring committees on their work.
3. Monitor publications and electronic discussion lists to keep informed of activities in various states and at the national level.
4. Submit an article relating to government relations for an issue of the Southeastern Law Librarian.

The committee wrote a letter to the Tennessee Supreme Court in support of the Tennessee Bar Associations proposal for a uniform system of citation.

Letters were also sent to all Senators in the Southeastern chapter urging them to co-sponsor and support the Digital Copyright Clarification and Technology Act (S. 1146). Members of the committee also sent personal letters to their congressional representatives to support and co-sponsor the Digital Era Copyright Enhancement Act (H.R. 3048).

Several other chapters have recently organized Government Relations committees and our committee has been recommended as a resource for them by Mary Alice Baisch at the Washington Affairs office. We have shared our Government Relations Policy, brochure on effective lobbying techniques, and our general experiences on monitoring and effecting legislation.

The committee members thank you for this opportunity to serve and look forward to continuing the work of the committee next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie J. Dunshee
Brian Baker
Kelly Browne

Timothy Coggins
Rebekah Maxwell
Brandon Quarles